



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 8, 2022

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Delsa D. Chapman, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent *DDC*  
Division of Educator, Student, and School Support

**SUBJECT:** Academic Year 2022-23 Benchmark Assessments Reporting and Funding

As the 2022-23 academic year begins, this is a reminder that all intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local educational agencies (LEAs), both traditional public school districts and public school academies (PSAs), must administer benchmark assessments to all students in grades K-8 for the purpose of measuring student proficiency in both reading and mathematics.

[Section 104h of PA 144 of 2022](#) in the state School Aid Act extends the requirement for districts to administer one or more benchmark assessment(s) within the first nine weeks of the beginning of school and again before the last day of school for the 2022-23 academic year. Districts are encouraged to administer the same benchmark assessments as they did in the preceding school year. Districts may select from one or more Michigan Department of Education (MDE) approved benchmark assessment providers or benchmark assessments that contain progress monitoring tools, or local benchmark assessments.

Districts are required to report benchmark information from all benchmark assessments administered during the 2022-23 academic year. Data collection will be similar to last year.

- Districts administering NWEA Map, Curriculum Associates i-Ready, Renaissance Star, Smarter Balanced Interim, or the MDE Early Literacy and Mathematics benchmark assessments are expected to report assessment results, including growth data if available, and primary mode of instruction to the Michigan Data Hub (MiDataHub) within 30 days of test administration in both the fall and spring.

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- For districts using local benchmark assessments or assessments that contain progress monitoring tools, information will be collected in late fall using the Grant Electronic Monitoring System/Michigan Administrative Review System (GEMS/MARS).

ISDs and LEAs may apply for 2022-23 benchmark assessment funding if they administer NWEA Map, Curriculum Associates i-Ready, or Renaissance Star benchmark assessments to students in any grade K-8. Funding eligibility for this grant opportunity is based on all of the following legislative requirements:

- administering NWEA MAP, i-Ready, or Star benchmark assessments in reading or mathematics during both fall 2022 and spring 2023;
- reporting of NWEA MAP, i-Ready, Star, Smarter Balanced, and/or Early Literacy and Mathematics data correctly to MiDataHub within 30 days of test administration;
- reporting mode of instruction correctly to MiDataHub within 30 days of test administration; and
- applying for funding through the GEMS/MARS system by the application deadline.

Awards will be \$12.50 per membership pupil in grades K-8 for each eligible district. An application will be made available in GEMS/MARS in November 2022, with awards made through the state aid management system in February 2023. Failure to comply with the eligibility requirements may result in loss of funding.

Nonpublic schools and districts that do not have students in grades K-8 do not need to report data and are not eligible for funding.

Additionally, this law requires districts to provide student data to parents or guardians within 30 days after administering the benchmark assessments.

To learn more about benchmark assessment requirements, please visit the [MDE Benchmark Assessments web page](#). For questions related to benchmark assessments, please contact MDE's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at [MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-OEAA@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance  
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Departments